



# Viking News

Volume XXXIX, No. 9

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Thursday, March 3, 2005

## Expanded fitness facility now open

By **CHELSEA MICHELS**  
Editor-in-Chief

After several months of building and renovations, the new fitness room in the Health and Physical Education Center opened for use Feb. 14.

Built by Wallace Contracting, the facility was planned by Mike Klecan, a Health Education and Human Performance Department faculty member and athletic trainer; Ilene Cohen, athletic director, and other HEHP faculty members.

The construction began last July.

Klecan said he developed several different designs of fitness rooms and "they gave us space in the old men's locker room. I've designed several fitness facilities before, and I just used the space I had to work with."

Although Klecan did not know the exact cost of the new room, he said donations came from Student Activities, and the HEHP Department donated equipment. He said the cost of construction was derived from the college's budget.

Although most of the weight and cardiovascular machines were moved from the old fitness room, a new, 12-station, body-master circuit was added, said Klecan.

Klecan said the most challenging part of the project was "trying to create a new fitness room on a limited budget."

In addition to the equipment moved in from the old room, another six or seven machines will be added, he said.

The fitness room "can accommodate about 20 people comfortably. It's more than triple the size of the old room," said Klecan, who added his favorite part is the new body-master equipment.

Klecan said, "We're going to try and staff the weightroom with students enrolled in the exercise-science curriculum. They'll be able to help out new members who are not familiar with the machines."

He also said the department is trying to create a member schedule for faculty,

staff and alumni to pay for membership. There is also discussion with the administration for a fee schedule for students.

Klecan said the fitness room is "kind of a work in progress. We've made a lot of gains, and there's still a lot of equipment, and we want to update the cardiovascular equipment."

The large new room is lined with mirrors and has treadmills and other cardiovascular machines against one wall, with the body-master circuit across the room.

When people enter the fitness room, an attendant looks at their student identification as they sign into a book to use the facility. A sign is posted on the outer door stating the room is closed on weekends.

The larger and improved fitness room can hold a larger number of people comfortably, with better circulation.

Anyone wishing to view or use the new fitness room can bring their student identification cards and visit the health building.



Viking News/CHELSEA MICHELS

After a long "weight," sophomore Sergio Cordoda uses the new, 12-station, body-master circuit in the new fitness room that opened Feb. 14 in the Health and Physical Education Center.

## Trips to China, India, England offer students credit for study abroad

By **TANYA N. SERVIS**  
Features Editor

Students at OCC can be given many opportunities to expand their horizons as they travel to another country and earn college credit for their experiences. America has always been a kind of melting pot of different cultures. Countries all over the world have left their cultural marks on American food, clothes, language and outlook.

Now, OCC students can see some of these cultures first hand as they visit places like China, India and England with the Study Abroad programs sponsored by the Office of International Education and the State University of New York's Rockland Community College.



China is one of the oldest civilizations in the world as well as the birthplace of many of today's most used inventions, including the compass and gunpowder. It is also 65 percent mountains and hills and home to the Great Wall.

Participating students will attend lectures on cultural, historical, social and other issues during their stay. There will be four in-country flights to sights such as Tiananman Square, Mogao Caves, the Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Shanghai, as well as an optional trip to Hong Kong.

The \$3,195 cost includes the four flights within China, all land transportation relating to the seminars as listed in the trip itinerary, all meals—including a farewell banquet, doubleroom accommodations at four-star hotels, guest lectures and all program-sponsor fees, site visits and seminar-related activities.

The optional trip to Hong Kong will cost interested students \$836, including roundtrip airfare, English-speaking guide, four-star hotel, meals and entrance fees. The single-room supplement costs \$325. Visa fees and

all other items not specifically listed in the program costs are the student's responsibility.

William Lavundi and Xiao-ming Yang, both professors of English at OCC, will lead the seminar. The trip dates are May 29 through June 12.



Students with at least a 2.5 grade-point average have the option of traveling to Bangalore, India, to earn six to nine credits through a variety of classes.

For eight weeks, students can study Indian history, art, music, religions of India, Indian languages, dance, mythology, literature and international business, all while getting a firsthand look at India's culture.

Located in one of India's most progressive cities, this program's students will see both modern things such as restraints, theaters and shows, as well as traditional Indian food markets and Hindu Temples.

The Centre for American Education will host this experience on a roughly eight-acre campus. Housing choices are serviced apartments or home stays. All transportation between housing and school is provided for this experience.

Applications for this trip can be downloaded on [www.rocklandabroad.com](http://www.rocklandabroad.com).

Students wishing for a spot of English tea can receive it while studying in England. Students can study at Edge Hill College, Kingston University or Thames Valley University in a number of programs ranging from science to technology to theater and more.

Both summer and full-semester program options are available. Each school has its own course offerings, and the unique locations offer interested

students the opportunity to explore other parts of the United Kingdom.

Prices vary from one institution to the next as well as for the length of time spent there. All students who apply must meet GPA guidelines and have academic references.



Those interested in going to England should understand English students typically put more time into their schooling than American students. Whereas at OCC, the rule is generally two to three hours of study per one hour class time, in England, according to Rockland University, students typically spend as much as six hours of study time per one hour of class.

A vast array of places to see and cultures to learn about around the world await students who go on these journeys full of unforgettable experiences.

Balance of big, small games key to success in 'play' generation

Page 4

Swimmers to compete in nationals in Florida

Page 5

Connecting road between GSP, Buckwald needed

Page 7



Viking News/TRACEY SPICHER

HUBBELL STARBURST?—This ceiling tile in the Russell Building is one of many signs of the effects of age and water deterioration in campus buildings. See related pictures on Page 3.



Viking News/TRACEY SPICHER

FLOCKING IN—Some of OCC's newest students enjoy a cold day on campus!

## College has 2nd-highest tuition increases of N.J. state schools

By ELANA ARON  
Staff Writer

Are community colleges still the best deal in town?

In the fall of 1999, tuition at OCC was \$1,770 a year for a fulltime load. By 2004, it had risen to \$2,310, a 30.5 percent increase.

Six years ago, tuition at other community colleges ranged from a low of \$1,572 at Burlington County College, to a high of \$2,250 at Brookdale Community College. Tuitions at other community colleges, such as Bergen, Morris, Essex and Mercer all fell within that range.

As of last fall, almost all community colleges in new Jersey had experienced

tuition hikes. Tuition at Brookdale has seen a five-year increase of 17 percent (\$2,633), Bergen checks in at 22.6 percent (\$2,478), and Warren has a low of 4.5 percent (\$2,100). At a five-year increase of more than 30 percent, OCC is second only to Atlantic Cape, which has gone up 31.1 percent (\$2,195).

A look at New Jersey public and independent colleges shows average tuitions of \$5,353 and \$20,778, respectively; community-college average is \$2,216.53. In 1999, it was \$1,934.05.

According to Daniel Duffy, vice president of student affairs at OCC, tuition is expected to rise again soon. This will narrow the gap between tuition at OCC and at one of new

Jersey's public colleges, Kean University, which presently charges \$4,655. With those figures, students may opt to attend four-year colleges directly, but in the meantime, community colleges remain the most affordable.

Right now, OCC charges \$73 per semester hour.

## Anime Club forms, seeks adviser

By BJ NELSON  
News Editor

Animation is an art form in and of itself. From Disney to Looney Tunes, animation has made its way around the world, captivating children and adults alike as fans and followers, factions and fellowships.

Who, then, should be surprised at the increased interest of clubs around the world in study and celebration of the Japanese animated art called "anime"? "Anime is very popular in America," said Casey Burns, president of the Anime Club, not officially a club yet at OCC. "We seem to be the slowest in picking up cultures," said Burns.

"Anime is based on the Japanese culture. They have animes like Pokemon," Burns said, by way of making it easier to visualize an anime character, "but there are also many different looking characters.

"They introduce a character by showing their fault first, character flaws, bad grades, fears, consequences of using their powers, things that are metaphors.

"Neon Genesis comes from the Bible and is working on becoming better as a people, rebuilding lives, fighting their own demons, character interventions. They have everyday lives, money, school, jobs, government, politics. It's more advanced, complicated than run-of-the-mill animation," Burns said.

Anime can be seen on the Anime Network, HBO, the Cartoon Channel and in movies such as the Oscar winning *Spirited Away*, for which director Mizaki won the golden statue.

Precursors to anime included the Power Rangers and a 1998 series Mecca in Japan, known as *Gundam Wing*.

*Full Metal Alchemist*, a late-night program, uses a programming block called "adult swim," which allows them to include material not for younger viewers.

*Cowboy Bebop* is a form of serial programming, as opposed to most others which are individual, stand alone stories from show to show.

*Yu-gi-oh* is a serialized program for children and young adults.

The very early Disney cartoons with the large eyes inspired original anime, showing a great deal of expression.

Most anime are created in the United States and sent to Japan, where the United States buy them back. Themes are borrowed; characteristics, worked through.

"The story *Kingdom Hearts* is a result of mixing the Disney game *Kingdom Hearts* and the Final Fantasy Game *Square (Soft) Annex*," said Burns. "It contains Disney characters running around in this mixed world. It is extremely well done. It maintains the whole element of the Japanese animation and culture.

"The actors who are called to do the anime roles are usually called again and again to come back and do the roles. They are very faithful. At conventions, they dress up in their characters' costumes; they are treated like stars.

"Also in Japan, they do theater plays, and anime is performed there routinely."

Although the Anime Club is still in its organizational stage, it has some officers. Burns is president, and Allen Neral is technical supervisor. Neral takes care of all the equipment necessary for viewings at meetings.

The club has plans. Beyond getting an adviser and becoming a legitimate club, the group intends to formulate a library from which DVD shows can be held and rental can be made. They want to increase their membership, and next semester, they hope to either attend a convention as a group or sign up to attend a trip of some type and increase awareness of the anime art form across

(Continued on Page 8.)

# Chinese teachers observe classes

By CHELSEA MICHELS  
Editor-in-Chief

OCC was chosen as a school for 10 teachers from China to study English as a second language in the United States.

According to Assistant Prof. of English and Literature Richard Bailey, also coordinator of the English-as-a-Second-Language Program at OCC, the teachers "came here to improve their own English and to polish their listening and speaking skills."

A supervisor to the ESL instruction, Bailey said they also are trying to study the American methods of teaching English to students. They intend to utilize and relay what they learn in the United States on their students in China.

The program is sponsored by Avtech Technology Inc., Piscataway. Ten Chinese middle-school and high-school teachers were chosen from 500 applicants for the position, said Bailey. Avtech, which organized living arrangements, brought over the teachers from China. Gary Mao of Avtech Technology was the project manager of the exchange program.

The foreign participants arrived around Dec. 10, and they will leave in early March.

Bailey said that Jon Larson, OCC president, came up with the idea of involving the college in the program, and it was the first time the college has participated in something like this. He said he believed the program would be continued in future years.

Currently, said Bailey, there are no similar programs for teachers at OCC to study in foreign countries.

When asked why China was chosen among other countries, Bailey said actually "OCC was chosen." He said the program directors felt "we could provide ESL instruction and methodology" that would offer the most benefits to the Chinese teachers.

Bailey said the "difficulty is choosing proper material since their English is very advanced," and the teachers are more focused on "polishing, rather than developing."

Bailey displayed his pleasure in the success of the program by saying, "They're highly intelligent and motivated and a pleasure to teach."



## Campus clips

### TODAY:

Student Activities Board, 2 p.m., Russell 102.  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 1:40 p.m., Russell 107.  
Speech and Theater, 1:40 p.m., Fine Arts 106.  
Mar. 4-6, Men's Basketball Semi-Finals vs. Salem, away.  
Coed Intramurals, 1:40 p.m., Gym.  
Women's Network, 1:40 p.m., Russell 127.  
Camera Club, 1:40 p.m., Fine Arts 200.  
Educational Opportunity Fund Alliance, 1:40 p.m., Russell 128.  
Phi Beta Lambda, 1:40 p.m., Instructional 322.

### TOMORROW:

Destination: Earth, 8 p.m., Novins Planetarium.  
Ballroom Dancing Club, 2:30 p.m., HEHP 131.

### SATURDAY:

"Wonderful Sky," 11:30 a.m.; "Exploring the Winter Sky," 1 p.m.; "Destination: Earth," 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., Novins Planetarium  
Family Week at the Theatre with "Peter Rabbit Tales Puppet Show," 1 p.m.; free.  
"Wonderful Sky," 11:30 a.m.; "Exploring the Winter Sky," 1 p.m., and "Destination: Earth," 2:30 p.m., Novins Planetarium.

### SUNDAY:

Viking cheerleaders, 7 p.m., Spirit Factory.

### TUESDAY:

Environmental Club, 1:40 p.m., Hierarchy 224.  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 1:40 p.m., Russell 107.  
Organization for Black Unity, 1:40 p.m., Russell 127.  
SALSA Club, 1:40 p.m., Russell 232.  
Circle K, 1:40 p.m., Russell 128.  
Peace Corps Opportunities, 11 a.m. Solar Lounge A.  
Coed Intramurals, 1:40 p.m. Gym.  
Beta Chi, 1:40 p.m., Russell 102.

### MAR. 10:

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 1:40 p.m., Russell 107.  
Student Activities Board, 2 p.m., Russell 102.  
Speech and Theater, Fine Arts 106.  
Coed Intramurals, 1:40 p.m., Gym.  
Women's Network, 1:40 p.m., Russell 127.  
Camera Club, 1:40 p.m., Fine Arts 200.

### MAR. 11:

N.J. Community Water Watch, 1:40 p.m. Hierarchy 114.  
"Destination: Earth," 8 p.m., Novins Planetarium.

### MAR. 12:

Ballroom Dancing Club, 2:30 p.m., HEHP 131.  
"Wonderful Sky," 11:30 a.m.; "Exploring the Winter Sky," 1 p.m.; "Destination: Earth," 2:30 and 8 p.m., Novins Planetarium.  
Philadelphia Flower Show, 9 a.m. Lot #2. OCC students, \$20; faculty, staff, alumni, \$27; guests, \$32.  
Men's Basketball District at Region 21, 1 p.m., Mar. 12 and 13.  
Water Watch Long Swamp Creek clean up, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Seacourt Pavilion Parking Lot.

### MAR. 13:

"Wonderful Sky," 11:30 a.m.; "Exploring the Winter Sky," 1 p.m., and "Destination: Earth," 2:30 p.m., Novins Planetarium.

### MAR 15:

Viking cheerleaders, 7 p.m., Spirit Factory.  
Environmental Club, 1:40 p.m., Hierarchy 224.  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 1:40 p.m., Russell 107.  
Organization for Black Unity, 1:40 p.m., Russell 127.  
SALSA Club, 1:40 p.m., Russell 232.  
Circle K, 1:40 p.m., Russell 128.  
Interclub Council, 2:15 p.m., Russell 102.  
ASOCC, 1:40 p.m., Russell 126.  
Coed Intramurals, 1:40 p.m. Gym.  
Beta Chi, 1:40 p.m., Russell 102.

### MAR. 16:

N.J. Community Water Watch and N.J. Watershed Ambassador Program's "Ocean County's Environment and Your Health," 7 p.m., Technology Lecture Hall.

### MAR. 17:

Mark Rust Irish music, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Southern Educational Center lobby.  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 1:40 p.m., Russell 107.  
Student Activities Board, 2 p.m., Russell 102.  
Speech & Theater, 1:40 p.m., Fine Arts 106.  
Women's Basketball NJCAA vs. Corning Community College, Mar. 17-19.  
Educational Opportunity Fund Alliance, 1:40 p.m., Russell 128.  
Phi Beta Lambda, 1:40 p.m., Instructional 322.  
Mark Rust Irish music, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Cafeteria.

# Campus buildings falling down, falling down

By CHELSEA MICHELS and TRACEY SPICHER

From crumbling ceilings to stained surfaces, OCC seems to be falling apart. Some of the nearly 40-year-old and younger buildings are showing the wear and tear of daily life and endless streams of students. The repair list is long and evident in

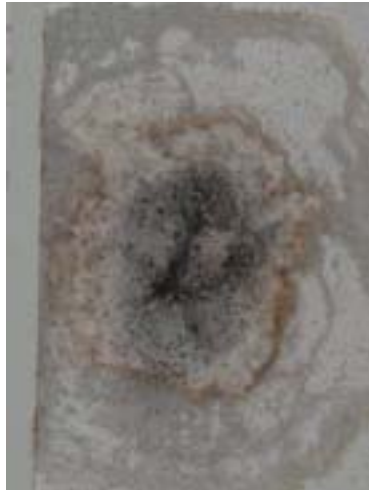
these photos of places on campus, including ceilings, walls and floors. Gaping ceiling panels, exposed sockets and uncovered insulation cause students and faculty to wonder about their health and safety. Decades of rain have caused stained ceilings, and where stains occur, mold soon follows.



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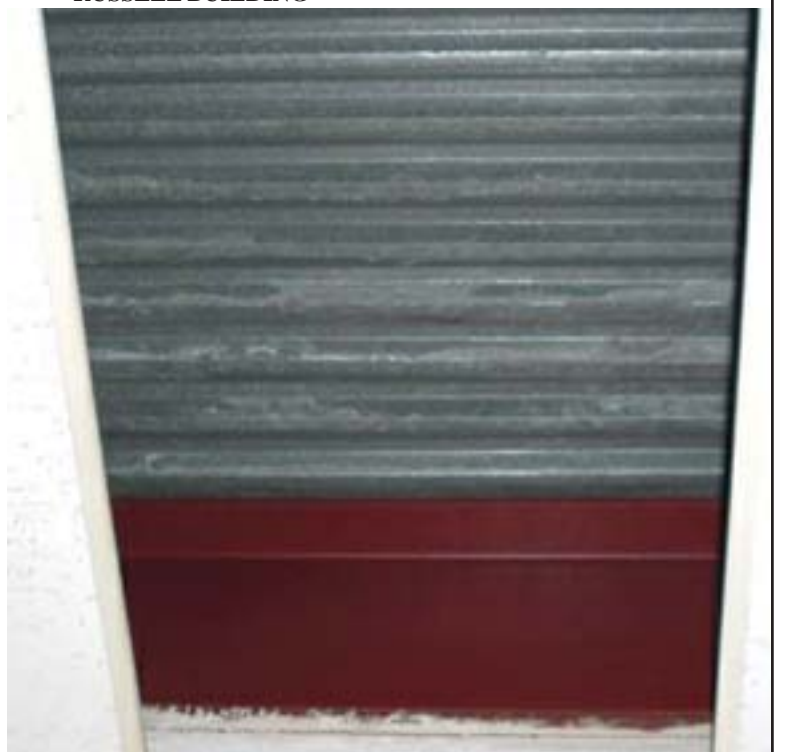
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\*Limit One To A Customer, Please

## Video challenges

# New 'play' generation needs big, small games to thrive

By BRAD WISWALL  
News Editor

2004 was another great year for gaming. Console sales went up, as well as software sales turning a profit for most of the console makers and third-party developers. On top of that, 2004



turned up a ton of quality games, which made a great year even better. With 2005 rolling in with the promise of a new Microsoft console, as well as a new portable from Sony, along with Sony and Nintendo announcing their newest consoles for the following year, games could not have it better.

Yet some gamers are not happy. In fact, they are livid. Some gamers actually do not like the fact games are becoming popular. They want it the way it was, as with the Genesis and Super NES or the Dreamcast. They want it where it was just for gamers and gamers only. These gamers must be crazy, right?

Actually, it is understandable as to why they are so angry. The era they are flashing back to, such as the days of the SNES and Genesis, Sega and Nintendo were worried about one demographic—gamers. If gamers do not want it, they do not spend the money on it. Classics for the SNES, such as *Actraiser*, *Pilotwings* and *Super Metroid* were created solely for the gamers who will play them, and they were absolutely incredible to play.

Sure, there were some movie tie-ins and some pretty bad games, but they normally never outweighed the great

games.

The popularity of games led by Sony's landmark console system, the Playstation, started with the release of *Final Fantasy VII*. *Final Fantasy VII* did what very few games have done since; it not only drew in a huge audience with its incredible graphics, score and story, but it also pleased the gaming crowd it was intended to. Some will say, with reason, *FFVII* is not the best *Final Fantasy* game, but few can deny the impact it had on the gaming industry itself.

*Final Fantasy VII* became the equivalent of *Casablanca*, a game that catered to the masses yet knew how to please its more rabid audience.

Since *FFVII* was released, more gaming developers, most notably Electronic Arts, started pouring more money into developing games. Suddenly, graphics drastically started improving in the better selling games, namely sports and shooting games. Licenses to books, movies, music, even actual actors were being sold to use in a game. The Playstation era was an incredibly exciting time for gamers because no one ever thought it would get that good.

In the Playstation 2 era, however, the bad started rearing its ugly head. An emphasis on violence, sex and mature themes, coupled with beautiful graphics and sound, became the norm in order to sell as many games as possible. This did not start, however, until the popularity of *Grand Theft Auto 3*. The possibility of a free-roaming city in which one could run over any cars, kill anyone and pick up hookers and beat them for their cash started becoming the most popular form of gaming.

*Grand Theft Auto 3* was great, do not get me wrong, but how many knock-offs came out with these types of game play additions? How about *The Getaway*, which is simply *GTA* in Britain? How about *True Crime*? How about the flaming bag of turd on your porch called *Driv3r*? Also, ever play *Max Payne* and *The Punisher* and have the feeling you had played the game before? Most of the money being spent to make games is geared to what sells: sex, violence, drugs and degradation of women and minorities. In the minds of many gamers, *Grand Theft Auto 3* did what *Star Wars* did to film in 1977: it made the format extremely popular, but incredibly shallow.

On top of that, how are the companies getting all of this cash to throw around? If you are EA, you probably product-placed everything in the game. Ever notice the *Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2005* poster in *Burnout 3: Takedown*? Or how about the true reason they added free-roaming driving in *Need For Speed Underground 2*? You did not notice that, in order to get to certain shops in the game, you have to drive past certain product placements. How

else will you remember where the body shop is in the upper district? It is right next to the Burger King billboard!

Yet, with all of the bad, there is a bit of good. Without games making money, few people in other businesses, like film and music, would really want to bother with games. The Wachowski brothers would have never thought of putting a chapter of their vaunted (at the time, anyway) series of *The Matrix* on consoles if they thought no one was interested. How about the *Lord of the Rings* games? Without the added assistance of Peter Jackson and the entire cast and crew of the films, those games would have never been as good as they are now.

Also, without the huge greenbacks from some companies, you could never get *Halo 2* or *Metal Gear Solid* series. There are game developers and directors, such as Shigeru Miyamoto and Hideo Kojima, to whom you can give the gross capital income of Yemen, and they can make an incredible game out of it. Like film directors Peter Jackson or Martin Scorsese, they can wisely spend the money given on making the film better, not giving cheap thrills.

The *Gran Turismo* series has always been an expensive one for Sony, but it is one of the few games that uses the huge amount of money it receives to make the game better. When the money is in the hands of the right people, it can make games infinitely better. Ask fans of the *Burnout* series, and they will agree with that statement wholeheartedly.

You also would have no chance of seeing the smaller games coming to consoles. If Namco were wiping and bathing themselves with cash from their franchises (*Tekken*, *Soul Calibur*, *Xenosaga*), do you really think they would have used the money to release *Katamari Damacy*? What about Capcom: Do you really think it would have released *Viewtiful Joe* if they were not making money with the *Street Fighter* series and *Resident Evil*?

Honestly, there is good and bad with the popularity of anything. Look at rap, for example. I

It was once an artistic form of poetry told through music and verse; now it is about women, drugs and money. Yet, if it were not for the crap like Cool Keith and Nelly, you would not get Jay-Z and Kanye West.

If the industry can keep belting out original and innovative games, the next generation of systems should continue to flourish through the next six to eight years.

However, if it continues to crutch on the same principles of this generation, it might just find itself in a rut sooner than the second year of the generation. Sony should be extra careful since it mostly deal with mainstream gaming, but the true state of the gaming industry relies on the coming generation.

## ACES promoted cultural connectedness

By BJ NELSON  
News Editor

There used to be a club on campus called ACES, Asian Cultural Exchange Society. Two years ago that club became inactive, and with it, the campus lost the benefit it had brought—the increasing connectedness, however locally, to the diversity of America.

According to the adviser of ACES, Instructor of English and Literature Robert Furstoss, "This is an important time for people to embrace broader cultural understanding.

"Images of America have never been more strained and unflattering. We

have a need to build a different view of things," said Furstoss.

The aim of ACES was to help integrate some of the cultures of the individual Asian countries with the students of American origin through activities with other clubs.

The students, who were the primary organizers, had attempted to invite the campus at large to participate; however, once supporters and driving forces moved on and graduated, the club fell into a state of inactivity.

It's a shame, "Furstoss said, "because the notion of American exceptionalism (Continued on Page 8.)

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# Swimmers preparing for national tourney in Florida

By **DOUG RUSH**  
Sports Editor

The national swimming meet is a way for swimmers at OCC to enhance their careers and possibly move on to the next level.

Starting Wednesday and carrying through until next Mar. 14, the OCC swim team will represent the college as members travel to Indian River, Fla., to compete in the national tournament.

"It's really a great opportunity for all of our swimmers to showcase their talents with a lot of other great schools," said head coach Steve Stout. "Indian River is the host, and it is a powerful team, but we are looking to really improve on the mark we made last year."

In last year's nationals, OCC came in sixth.

One of the current freshmen on the team from Toms River South, Rich Henninger, said he felt good about his team's chances Wednesday.

"I think we have a really good shot. Yes, it's a lot of pressure on some of us as we have to step up to the challenge, but we are ready for it," said Henninger. "We are training really hard for it now, and Stout is tuning what we need to do for our events and overall just preparing us to see a lot faster competition, but I think we have a really good shot at nationals."

The swimmers will take part in many events; Henninger will compete part in the 50-meter-freestyle event.

In the 50-meter-freestyle, Stout said, he thought Henninger could rank in the top five at nationals.

Another one of the big swimmers Stout felt could perform very well is

Shayna DeRouville, a freshman from Toms River North High School. Stout said she could finish in the top five of every event she competes in.

Henninger was also very high on Stout for his coaching abilities and efforts. "He really does a lot to help us out, and I think it's very awesome of him. He's very helpful and wants to see his swimmers go far in their swimming careers."

When asked about the pressure of having that type of prediction put on the team, Henninger said it did not faze him. "Yes there is some pressure there, but I like having it on me," he said. "It pushes me harder and will make me better in the long run."

Henninger also said with Division I schools there, he will be able to show off his skills and get attention.

Just before the nationals, the Vikings competed in the Region XIX Tournament and placed sixth.

Among top finishers were Henninger, who took third in the 100-meter butterfly; Matt McCarty, who took second in the 1650-meter freestyle and third in the 200-meter freestyle; DeRouville who took first in the 200-meter breaststroke and second in the 100-meter breaststroke; Heather Farrell, who took third in the 100-meter backstroke, and Clarissa Green, who took third in the 1650-meter freestyle.

All of the swimmers are candidates to finish with strong results in the nationals.

The regionals were held at Monroe Community College, Rochester, N.Y., Feb. 11 through 13.

## Women lose, 78-48

By **MICHAEL R. SICILIA**  
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team closed the regular season Feb. 22 with an away loss to Mercer County College, West Windsor, 78-48, in a game that meant nothing to both sides.

Before the game, Mercer held a pregame ceremony in recognition of two graduating sophomores, Nicole Brown and Tashema Whittaker, who paced MCC from the opening tip.

Mercer rained three-point attempts at will throughout the first half and was up, 53-25, at halftime.

Mercer kept the points coming in the

second half. OCC took a full timeout late in the second half played better coming out of the timeout. But by then, the game was out of reach.

In a losing cause, Jamie Allen led OCC with 13 points, and Lynn Padavano poured in 12 points. LaTasha Banks had a big night on the glass, grabbing 12 rebounds.

"We were flat throughout," head coach David Wilson said in his postgame interview. "Everybody was frustrated. We had a few (scoring) spurts," he said of the team's short-lived revival after that second-half

(Continued on Page 8.)

Now at the end of the season, the Vikings have had almost a full month to prepare for the national tournament, practicing Mondays through Fridays from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m.

When asked for predictions on the nationals, Stout said he felt a lot of his swimmers could finish in the top five or six.

"We have a lot of strong swimmers on this team, and they work so hard all year long. They look to set personal bests for themselves."

"For them to be able to set personal bests in a national event is tremendous. It's very rewarding to see, and I am very much looking forward to it."

Henninger was optimistic about his team's chances Wednesday, feeling the swimmers can break records, he said. "We are a strong team, even though we don't have a lot of guys this year, but we still did more than expected. We are really trying to set records at the



Viking News/TRACEY SPICHER

LaTasha Banks dribbles against a Salem County College player in home action Feb. 17.

## Familiar player leads Salem to 71-51 defeat of Vikings

By **MICHAEL R. SICILIA**  
Staff Writer

For the second time in as many years, the women's basketball team fell prey to the Salem County College Oaks—and to a familiar opposing player who again had a big night at the Vikings' expense.

In OCC's home finale Feb. 17, the Vikings suffered a 71-51 loss to Salem in the first meeting of the former Division II rivals since the opening round of last year's Region XIX playoffs. Salem's Andrea Segich, who destroyed OCC in that playoff game, had her way with the Vikings once again. Segich, a sophomore, rang up 20 points to help Salem pull away in the second half.

OCC briefly held a 21-20 lead late in the first half, but the Oaks went on a 17-10 run to take a 37-31 lead at the break. Salem then went on a 15-0 run in the first 5:37 of the second half to put the game out of reach.

The Vikings finished with a 6-4 record at home. In a losing cause, Lynne Padavano and Jamie Allen each scored

12 points to lead OCC offensively.

"You have to respect Salem; it was hot," Viking head coach David Wilson said in his postgame interview.

Wilson also pointed to a lack of ball protection on the part of the home team, which the Oaks largely took advantage of.

"The turnovers hurt," he said. "We have to play smarter."

The officiating also perturbed Wilson. "A game with the whistles blowing 24/7 hurts us," he said in alluding to the numerous fouls OCC was called for.

Wilson tipped his hat to Segich and her big night. "She is a very good player," he said and mentioned Segich's standing as an All-Region player. "She's a good shooter."

As was the case in a Jan. 20 home loss to Bryn Mawr, Pa.-based Harcum College, the Vikings were physically overmatched against Salem.

"We were trying to box them out," Allen said. "But they were taller than us."

Allen had five rebounds but said she

thought LaTasha Banks—who also had five boards—was the bigger highlight in that regard. "LaTasha had some big rebounds," said Allen.

Before the season, Allen had not played basketball since her sophomore year (2001-'02) at St. John Vianney High School, Holmdel. Allen then transferred to Monsignor Donovan High School, Toms River, for her senior year, but she did not play.

After her prolonged lay-off, she was second on the team with 232 points before the regular season finale Feb. 22 at Mercer County College, West Windsor.

"When I came back, I had a hard time shaking the rust off," she said in describing her upward progression during the regular season. She knows what it takes to help the team achieve success in the win column.

"We play our best when we're playing together and rotating the ball," Allen said.

Since the start of the 2003-'04 season, OCC is 16-7 at home, good for a .696 winning percentage.

## Men finish 14-14, lose scorer

By **DOUG RUSH**  
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team continued on its rollercoaster of games finishing the regular season.

The Vikings came into the game against Mercer County College at the .500 mark on the season and looking to continue to push wins. But in the game Feb. 15, Mercer was able to overcome an early OCC lead in the first half and ended up winning on the Vikings' home court, 77-72.

OCC led early on in the game, pushing a 12-point lead on Mercer, which has given OCC trouble in the past. Mercer was able to take advantage of Viking mistakes and out-shoot OCC in the first-half, as the score was 37-31 in favor of Mercer.

In the second half, it was a back and forth battle between the two teams, but Mercer was able to hold off OCC, defeating them by five points.

Robert Caswell continued his great freshman season as he scored 20 points. Viking leading scorer Jordan Krzeczowski scored 18, and the only other Viking to reach double-figure scoring in the game was Joe Nagy, with 12.

After the close loss to Mercer, OCC had a home game two days later against Salem County College, a team OCC lost to, 73-70, in early January.

This time around, OCC gained revenge for the early loss, winning, 98-

75.

In the first half, the game was very close. Salem was up, 41-36, with a few minutes left in the first half until OCC went on an 8-0 run that made the score 44-43 in favor of the Vikings. In the second half, OCC stepped up with a lot of scoring and tough defense to win by 23 points.

Caswell set a career high with 30 points. He added seven rebounds, three blocks and two assists. Jarred Volta scored 16 points; Nagy scored 13; Steve Hansen scored 11, and Jamel Pitts scored 10. Krzeczowski was held to just 11 on the night.

The next game was Feb. 20, a road one against a struggling opponent, Burlington County College, which was 1-23 going into the game. OCC changed BCC's loss total to 24.

The Vikings were able to dominate Burlington early with scoring and capitalize on Burlington's mistakes, as their first-half was a 15-point margin, 39-24.

The second half saw the same type of play as OCC defeated Burlington, 83-69.

Krzeczowski scored 24 points, 13 of which came in the first half. Caswell scored 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Nagy scored 14; Volta scored 10, and Pitts scored 9.

The win against Burlington put the Vikings a game above .500, 14-13, for only the second time this season.

The snow caused a few delays and cancellations, and the men ended up finishing 14-14 on the season, but that did qualify them for the fourth seed in the Regional XIX Tournament against an opponent they are very familiar with—Essex County College. OCC swept Essex in both games; winning the first one 64-55, and the second one, 62-58.

The Vikings will have to enter the playoffs without their star, Krzeczowski.

Toward the last game of the season, Krzeczowski was displaying what head coach Jon Olsen said was "conduct detrimental to the team," which led to Krzeczowski asking to leave the squad after almost two years on the team.

Olsen said he was sorry to see Krzeczowski go, but the team will have to continue to play and focus on the playoffs without him.

With Krzeczowski out of the mix, the scoring duties will be spread out to players like Caswell, Nagy, Jarred Volta, Jack Oliver and Pitts, but each player has to step his game up.

Out of the freshman, Caswell has played the best this season.

He scored a career-high 30 points last month and can average anywhere from 15 to 25 points per game.

Olsen said with Caswell coming back to OCC next season, he could be the

(Continued on Page 8.)



Viking News/TRACEY SPICHER

Viking Lynn Padavano (12) goes for a goal against Salem County College defenders at home Feb. 17.

## Viewpoint

# Higher tuition not sign of better quality

Going into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, having a lot of money became synonymous with quality and prestige. Celebrities, movie budgets and boutiques thrive on being decadent and high-priced, but should the same glamour apply to a community college?

That is correct; tuition will continue to rise, according to Daniel Duffy, vice president of student affairs, even though it was raised again this semester, bringing the increases total to 30.5 percent over the last five years.

Community colleges, especially OCC, can be a wonderful way to obtain a quality education for a fair price. People come here because it is local, clean, safe and affordable. Many who attend OCC are not necessarily seeking a community college with the best technology and most state-of-the-art equipment.

According to Duffy (in a recent interview for the Feb. 17 edition of this newspaper), "Right now, OCC is the sixth most expensive community college in New Jersey. (Jon) Larson (college president) is aiming to be the second most expensive, right behind Brookdale (Community College)."

This is an astonishing quote: "aiming to be the second most expensive community college in New Jersey"?

It is understandable that each year tuition might increase, with new professors being hired, more buildings being constructed and more supplies being needed to meet the college's requirements. Although money is needed for everything, and it is natural for prices to increase, spending more should not be something that is "aimed" for.

Making struggling students shell out more money semester after semester should be avoided, not sought. Each credit currently costs \$99, with the new tuition hike putting it over \$100 per credit.

Also, having a good quality school does not require taxing students with higher tuition and fees. Instead of paying landscapers to beautify the campus, an agricultural or landscaping internship should be set up so students could take care of the campus. More students should be hired for work-study programs to cut down their full payment of tuition and create more jobs around campus, like having assistants in the new fitness room or in the library.

The school should look for new ways to raise money for new roofs and repairs, perhaps putting on fundraisers within the community instead of relying solely on what the state rations to the school. A huge concert with local bands would draw an enormous crowd and raise a lot of money.

Technology is not the answer for everything. And even though the college has poured more and more into computerization, continuous complaints flow around campus about the quality and workings of Campus Cruiser and WebAdvisor.

Although with WebAdvisor students can access their grades sooner, if students cannot log on with their student identifications, or if WebAdvisor malfunctions, it may take longer for students to receive their grades than if the notices were mailed out. Students should have the option of applying to have a hard copy of their grades sent to them, as well as posted on line. This way, time, money and paper will not be wasted on students who do not care about receiving them in the mail, and those that do will be happy.

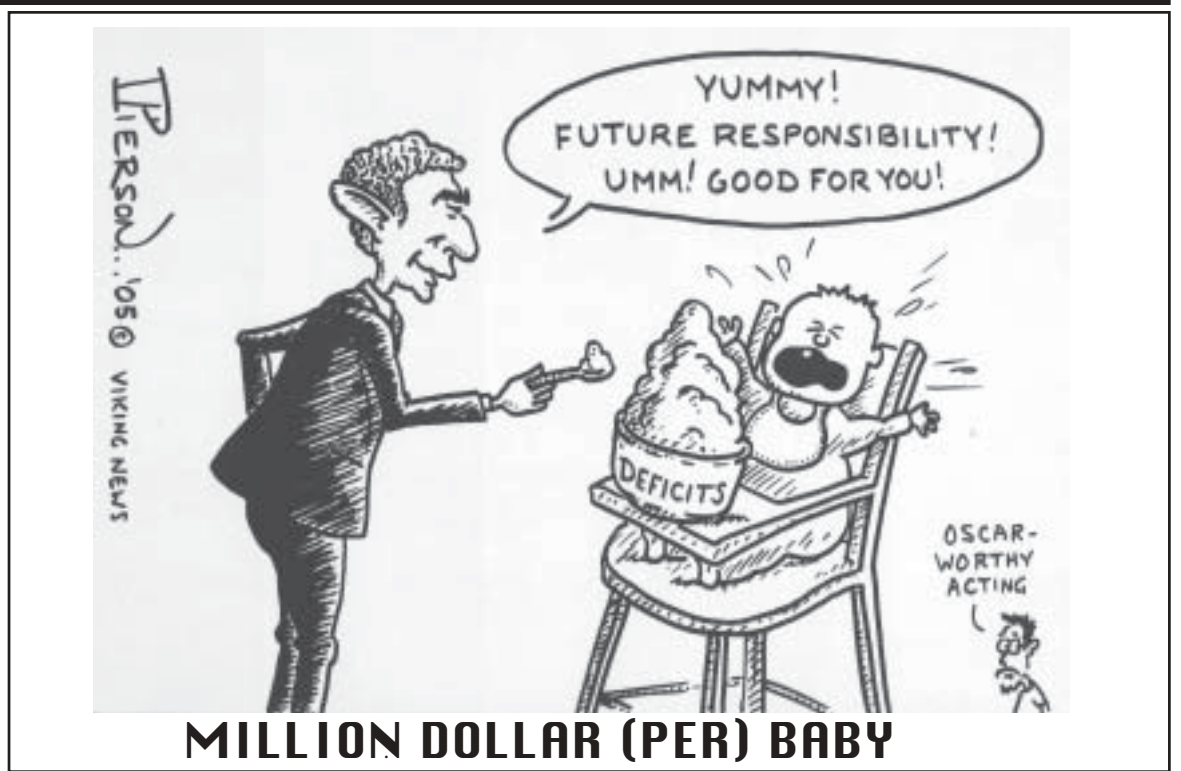
Increasing tuition, especially on purpose to reach a "goal" or, perhaps, a "claim of prestige" is wrong. Occasional increases in price are necessary; everyone understands that, but the fact remains high prices do not always equate with high quality.

Students attend OCC because of its affordability, among other reasons. If prices increase too much, then students may decide to attend a four-year college if it is only a few thousand dollars more. In reality, a student usually receives more financial aid attending a four-year college or university than a community college, so it may be in the student's benefit to attend a different school because the prices may balance out.

OCC is a good school, but it will not be able to maintain its student population if the costs continue to rise as they have and are predicted to do. Students want to be able to claim, "I only paid \$3,000 for school this year," not "I attend the second most expensive community college in New Jersey."

In turn, administrators should find it more rewarding and prestigious to brag about their efforts and successes in keeping the tuition down and affordable, not how "good" it is to be running an expensive school.

If OCC does not want the important enrollment numbers to decline, officials should try to cut back on unnecessary costs and do everything in their power to keep the school affordable, just like the OCC we used to love.



## MILLION DOLLAR (PER) BABY

Ellen Goodman

# 'Million Dollar Baby' neither political tract nor propaganda

By ELLEN GOODMAN  
W. Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Is it too late to create an Oscar for the Most Politically Controversial Film? It would be awfully handy to have a designated

category for controversy so the rest of us could concentrate on what everyone is wearing.

This year, the two most contentious contenders are not even in the running. *Fahrenheit 9/11* got completely stifled by the Academy. *The Passion of the Christ* was only nominated for cinematography, music and *makeup*. At least it did not get the Miss Congeniality prize.

That has left an entire industry of culture critics all outraged-up with no place to go. The only focus of their *pret-a-porter* anger at Hollywood is *Million Dollar Baby*, which garnered seven nominations, including one for Best Picture.

Here comes the spoiler alert: Anyone who does not want to know the end of the plot should read no further, although I hope you do. *Million Dollar Baby* is a box-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps movie with a father-daughter redemption theme. But just when you have pegged it as Babe Rocky, the plot takes an abrupt turn to the darker side.

Maggie, the boxer, is blindsided in the ring and becomes a quadriplegic who asks her devoted, guilt-ridden, father-figure trainer, Frankie, to help her die. Eventually, in what is not a happy ending, he comes to the hospital room, turns off the respirator, injects her with adrenaline. Let the credits roll.

The portrait of Hilary Swank as a

boxer who desires death and Clint Eastwood as the reluctant instrument of her desire has been roundly condemned by culture critics from Rush Limbaugh to Michael Medved. It has been tagged as "a million-dollar euthanasia movie" and "political propaganda" that portrays assisted suicide as the "heroic choice." In addition, some advocates like Marcie Roth of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association condemned the message as "saying death is better than disability."

All in all, Eastwood has gotten more grief as tortured Frankie than Dirty Harry.

Usually, I am reluctant to get into the ring with a fantasy figure. *Million Dollar Baby* is no more a movie about assisted suicide than *The Aviator* is about obsessive-compulsive disorder and *Sideways* is about alcoholism.

In this case, there is some plot-wrecking reality. Maggie did not need to ask Frankie to help her die. Any fully competent patient in this country has the legal right to stop medical treatment. It is true for patients on kidney dialysis or chemotherapy, and it is true for a quadriplegic patient with a feeding tube.

But what of the notion the film is saying "better dead than disabled"? I do not dismiss the impact of culture on individual choices. Our society may well overvalue autonomy and breed a fear of dependence.

When gonzo journalist Hunter Thompson committed suicide, I was struck by the "understanding" remarks of his lawyer, who said, "He did not want to exist as an invalid or as someone who needed constant care. It wouldn't suit his sense of self." He attributed Thompson's "choice" to chronic pain and the vagaries of aging.

More serious and sudden disabilities

can bring on an identity crisis and despair. People who work with the disabled have learned to be wary of depression among those who say they want to die. These are issues Eastwood barely skates across in the race to a dramatic finale.

But we are in ripe moment for public discussion of life and death. The priest in *Million Dollar Baby* tries to convince Frankie to step aside and "let God take over." In fact, we are now playing God with feeding tubes and respirators. Just this week in Florida, the struggle between people claiming to speak for the severely disabled Terri Schiavo reached a climax. Meanwhile the Supreme Court took on another challenge to the Oregon law permitting assisted suicide.

People face death and disease as differently as they face life. They do not lose their individuality—or their individual rights—when they lose their mobility. What movies do best is tell stories. So an Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Film, *The Sea Inside*, tells the story of Ramon Sampedro, a Spanish quadriplegic, and his 30-year struggle for the right to die. On the other hand, the Sundance festival gave an award to *Murderball*, a documentary of a quadriplegic rugby team.

If Sampedro was not a disabled everyman, neither was Christopher Reeve. The inspiring story of conquering adversity is by no means universal. Nor, for sure, is the decision to die.

*Million Dollar Baby* is neither political tract nor propaganda. It does not ask whether death is better than disability for you or me, but rather for a character named Maggie. Her choice opens up a conversation rather than closing it. For that, I can only say, "The envelope please."

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# Water Watch raises \$650 for clean water for tsunami relief

By BJ NELSON  
News Editor

No one has to be reminded of the incredible destruction visited upon the southeastern part of the world from the tsunami and earthquake, nor the need for food, shelter, blankets or water.

Water Watch, not normally allowed to fund-raise, was given an exception for a two-month period to place collection bottles on campus for tsunami relief under the auspices of Oxfam.

Oxfam is an international organization that believes in a world rich in resources, where poverty is

not a fact of life but is an injustice which must be overcome.

The organization believes everyone is entitled to a life of dignity and opportunity and works with poor communities, local-partner organizations, volunteers and supporters to make this a reality. Oxfam's goal is a world in which every person is skilled, secure, equal, safe, healthy and heard.

All Water Watch chapters throughout New Jersey organized in a campaign.

The OCC chapter ran its first day of classes, Jan. 24, to Feb. 26, an

anniversary of the tsunami.

OCC's chapter set a goal of \$250, which was doubled soon after the collection began, making the target \$500.

Three large bottles were placed in the Bookstore, the Cafeteria and in the Student Life Office. Two hot-chocolate sales were also held in the Instructional Building.

The OCC chapter raised \$650.

The money collected statewide will go to provide clean, fresh drinking water to an entire village in Southeast Asia.

Campus comments

# 'Should smoking be outlawed on OCC campus



**BONNIE KOOKLIN**  
Freshman  
Undecided

"Not at all. It's not banned anywhere else in New Jersey. Just because it's a college, doesn't mean it's not in the jurisdiction of society."



**RON AULETTA**  
Sophomore  
Liberal Arts

"I think we live in a land of the free, and we should be able to smoke wherever the hell we feel like it. They should put an awning on the blacktop so we don't have to huddle by the building when it rains."



**KIM EDSON**  
Sophomore  
Liberal Arts

"I think it should be, and they don't enforce it very well because you see everyone by the door. It's disgusting."



**ED PAPE**  
Sophomore  
Science

"I think it should be outlawed on campus, but students shouldn't have to enforce it. If it's not outlawed, ashtrays should be placed, not trash cans."



**ERIC TOUSSAINT**  
Freshman  
Music

"Absolutely not, because it's impossible to tell more than 1,000 students who smoke to stop smoking on the school's campus."



**LARBI KANDIL**  
Freshman  
Mechanical Engineering

"Yes, because I think it's nasty for people who don't smoke."



**JOHN FRANA**  
Freshman  
Liberal Arts

"No, people who smoke are just another minority."



**JESSICA STRUNK**  
Freshman  
Liberal Arts

"No, because people are just going to end up smoking anyway."



**SAMANTHA CHIRELLI**  
Freshman  
Liberal Arts

"No, because I smoke."



**DANA MCKNIGHT**  
Sophomore  
Mathematics

"Yes, because it's gross."



Viking News/TRACEY SPICHER

**NEEDED HELP**—New electronic doors were installed at the side entrance of the College Center near the Quiet Lounge recently. The doors replaced ones that had not worked properly for a long time.

## Creek to be cleaned

By BJ NELSON  
News Editor

Interested in keeping the environment clean? Have a strong drive to follow causes for clean water? Is exercise your main passion?

Each of these pursuits can be realized through participation in Water Watch's clean up of Long Swamp Creek Mar. 12 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Twice during the semester, Water Watch holds a clean up, and this year, both will be of Long Swamp Creek, where students and faculty members can join with community members for 3 hours to pull trash out of the creek and restore its natural beauty.

Last year, 30 to 140 volunteers at

each campus turned out across the state, removing tons of trash from rivers, streams and creeks, undoing the damage of thoughtless thousands who litter or mindfully dump their waste.



Jeanine Cava of Water Watch can be contacted at 732-598-1258.

# Road needed to connect GSP to Buckwald Drive

By SCOTT COLBERT  
Staff Writer

As many college students know, getting to and from classes often adds stress to the already hectic life we live. With papers due, midterms, studying and working a job to pay for tuition, the added burden of having to sit in traffic does not make for a healthy college life. I am sure students wish there could be a high-speed ramp from their houses to the college doorstep. While that is implausible, students at OCC may just get the next best thing, an exit from the Garden State Parkway to Buckwald Drive.

Since the late 1980s, the Ocean County Engineering Department has had a proposal to extend Fischer Boulevard from its present terminus at Hooper Avenue further north to Route 70; the original path was to cut through the Holiday City Adult Community.

That plan has been eliminated because of increased opposition, but a more recent proposal would extend Fischer Boulevard northwest from Hooper Avenue and hug the northern border of OCC; it might then cross Church Road or Bay Avenue and then interchange with the Parkway at about milepost 86.

If this plan were to come to fruition, it would greatly cut down on traffic in the entire area, on roads such as Brick Boulevard, Hooper Avenue, Fischer Boulevard, Route 37 and Church Road. By providing quick and easy access to the college from the Parkway, the extension would free these major arteries to handle the traffic they were designed for instead of handling the detoured traffic trying to reach the college. It would also provide the residents of Silverton and surrounding areas an alternative to the frequently congested Brick Boulevard.



Those who are against this project say they fear it will open more room for development and endanger the already sensitive area that surrounds the college. Another example of this was the Buckwald Bridge itself. Passing over a sensitive creek, environmentally it needed to contain no metal, concrete, paint or chemicals that could possibly harm the treefrogs that dwell beneath. Thus, an entirely wooden bridge was made from a super dense wood from Africa which cost millions of dollars.

There is no question a road project like this would have an impact on the area, but there are ways to ensure this extension will not become another Hooper Avenue.

To mitigate this impact, the roadway should be built as a limited-access highway, with interchanges only at Buckwald Drive and Church Road to prevent any potential businesses (i.e., Wawa, Home Depot, Dunkin Donuts) from using this extension for yet another location. Not allowing any residential or commercial development would provide a quick and scenic ride to the

Parkway. This would also be environmentally friendly, as it would preserve the wetlands and forests OCC's founders purposely set aside from becoming consumed by sprawl.

The highway should be built to freeway standards, with two or four travel lanes total; if the lesser are chosen, room should be left for future widening. The interchange for Buckwald Drive should only provide access to and from the college, thereby preventing drivers from using Buckwald as a shortcut to Church Road. The Church Road interchange would be just before the Parkway entrance and have full access.

Of course, this is all merely a suggestion, as the Ocean County Engineering Department is currently studying the idea. However, without support, it will probably continue to be ignored as an option for curing the traffic problems in our area.

Both residents and students deserve to have the best and quickest access possible. The Parkway is the No. 1

(Continued on Page 8.)



Viking News/TRACEY SPICHER

**SCHOOL OF ANOTHER SORT**— The goldfish in the pool near the Fine Arts Center provide a colorful change to the dreariness of winter days.

## Vikings lose to Essex, get ready for tournament

By **MICHAEL R. SICILIA**  
Staff Writer

Already assured of a home game in the first-round of the Region XIX, Division III playoffs, the women's basketball team spent the last two games getting itself ready for the opening-round match-up.

On Feb. 18, the Vikings went to Essex County College, Newark, and fell to the Division II Wolverines, 82-38.

"It wasn't a tough loss," head coach David Wilson said after practice on Feb. 21. "That game meant nothing to us, and it meant nothing to Essex. They're a good team, regardless."

Wilson rested many of his starters for that game, citing a need to avoid injuries. He pointed out the game was stopped after an Essex player suffered a badly injured knee. Wilson said he did not know who the player was.

"They had to take her out on a

stretcher," Wilson said, adding play was halted for about 30 minutes so the injured Wolverine player could be attended to. Wilson also said the player's knee was badly swollen.

Consequently, he said, he has been thankful his squad has been able to avoid major injuries.

"With only eight (players) on our roster, it only takes two (serious injuries), and our season is gutted," he said.

On Feb. 19, OCC went to Pemberton to take on the Burlington County College Barons. The Vikings prevailed easily over winless BCC, 94-41. The 94 points set a new season-high for OCC, which commanded the game from start to finish.

Wilson said at the end of last season he does not believe in scoring 100 points against a bad team. "It was hard not to score 100 (against Burlington)," he said.

The coach played his "A" team in the first half and was pleased with the way everything went, he said. "Everybody played well," he said. He also cited the offensive games of Ariella Ortiz and Lynn Padavano.

"Ariella is getting smarter every time out, and Lynn had three 20-point games in the last week," Wilson said.

He has been equally impressed with the steals aspect of the team's defense. "It's been great," he said, adding two

**Vikings close with loss to Mercer...**  
(Continued from Page 7.)

Wilson said he was satisfied with Banks' performance defensively. "She played well," he said.

Wilson had high praise for Mercer's offense, particularly on three-point shots. "They're a good shooting team, and we had poor closeouts to counter. It was bad," he said.

Unlike the loss to Salem County College in the home finale two weeks

### Men end season, lose star player...

(Continued from Page 7.)

best post-player because of his great skill inside the paint.

At 6-feet, 4-inches and 175 pounds, the forward/center from Monsignor Donovan High School is a great inside scorer, using his height and long arms to score over defenders, which will cause double and triple team efforts on him and which allows Caswell to pass out the ball to deep threats like Nagy and Volta.

### Anime Club needs adviser...

(Continued from Page 2.)

the campus and beyond. "It's a fabulous form of art, and people should at least give it a chance, try it out, like any other experience. They just might like it," said Burns.

Anime Club meetings are held Wednesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. in Conference Room B (or A if bumped;

There was also trouble for those who wanted to grab something from Wawa on Hooper Avenue before the second entrance was completed. Another example is when trying to exit from Lot 1 at peak periods when there is only one way out, with the other street deadended for some odd reason.

We all know without travel options, everyone will be forced to use the only one available, creating more bottlenecks. So keep studying, and keep writing those papers, but just make sure to look up from time to time in case the car in front of you has moved a few more inches.

## Culture connectedness...

(Continued from Page 4.)

and political rhetoric keeps us worlds apart from Europe and Asia. A club like ACES is the perfect opportunity to work locally at breaking down those barriers.

"A lot of communication occurs from less verbal, indirect methods—dress or presentation of a person," said Furstoss. "Here in America we have a different work ethic than, say, the Thai do. It is nothing for us to eat, drink, laugh, joke and fool around on the job, and we never expect to get in trouble for it. Then we go after work to a bar with friends and party."

"On the other hand, the Thai have

one word, 'nan-ngan,' which means both work and party. They take their work very seriously. They don't fool around.

"They go to work and get the job done. Then they go home and relax. It's a whole different culture."

Furstoss said he feels real frustration over such a dilemma. "There are so many Indio cultures, so many differences. It takes a real desire to learn; there needs to be direct and explicit verbal contact. But it is a gold mine just waiting to be explored."

Anyone interested in reactivating ACES can contact Furstoss in Russell Room 243.

### Critic's corner

## NHL should have used 'scabs'

By **DOUG RUSH**  
Sports Editor

After 154 days of little or no negotiations and bargaining, the National Hockey League finally decided to cancel the rest of the 2004-'05 season Feb. 16.



DOUG RUSH

The difference in settlement between the players association and the commissioner's office was \$6 million. Six million dollars was the deciding factor that could have salvaged a disgraceful season with lots of moaning and groaning between the two sides.

The commissioner's side and NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman made the wrong decision in creating a lockout.

What Bettman and the officials of the NHL should have done was take a look back at the 1987 National Football League season and follow that result.

In 1987, the NFL season got shortened from a player's strike, causing NFL teams to use "scab" players to play the rest of the season. A "scab" player is a term used for a player who is given a job to play but who had not been playing football for several years, or at all.

In that season, the Washington Redskins used these players to finish their season at 11-4 and ended up winning the Super Bowl.

The NHL should have told those teams and players that whoever wants to agree to the salary cap and bargaining agreement could play; those who did not want to could sit at home and find another way to get paid, plain and simple.

I call it a disgraceful season because the NHL should not be staging a lockout just to settle disagreements. They should have been finding ways to keep the season alive. Using replacement players would have been the best answer.

It is such a shame to see what athletes have become these days; money-hungry, greedy, egotistical and even degenerate, if you look at some of their lifestyles.

There are so many other athletes who are not getting paid to be professionals, who would love to be in the NHL at any cost. Money should not be an object to playing a game.

Yes, hockey, like all other sports, is a game. It takes a lot of skill to play these games, but there are a lot of younger players who will play the games for a lot less money.

There are plenty of minor-league and independent-league players who never get a chance at the NHL because of the competition involved. With the current greedy players sitting at home during the lockout, these other players can finally realize their dreams and play professionally for the first time.

There are also those in college who are playing their hearts out trying to earn a chance in the NHL. A lot of players who participate in college do not get a chance to play professionally.

Last year, a survey done said about 10 percent of National Collegiate Athletic Association players make it professionally, which leaves the other 90 percent looking for jobs. Let us get some of that 90 percent into uniforms and playing. They would love the thought of a second chance in the NHL.

And, yes, there are the "scab" players. If anyone still does not understand what a "scab" player is, watch the 2000

hit movie *The Replacements*, with Keanu Reeves and Gene Hackman. That movie was based on the 1987 NFL "scab season" and the Washington Redskins' success with replacement players who had been out of football for several years and doing regular jobs.

"Scab" players are just like the minor leaguers and college players, except they know what it was like to play professionally and have not been signed.

If you offered these guys the right amount of money, they would love a chance to play one more time. The real losers in the NHL lockout are the fans. The fans are hard-working and pay very good money for tickets, especially those fans who purchase season tickets to see their favorite teams.

They cannot watch their teams now because the players they go to watch are very greedy and demanding more money for whatever it is they need; usually it is cars, houses, female escorts, agents' fees, drugs, parties or other outrageous things that cost a lot. It is sad to say this about athletes, but many of them really are not role models.

So instead of taking the NFL's 1987 approach to greed, the NHL took the easy way out and decided to cancel the season, which is a shame. There are some players who did not care for money and fled to Europe and Asia to play hockey because they love it, and they should be commended for that. The others should be replaced and not paid at all.

In fact, that should be the message to every athlete out there; if you do not want to play, sit at home, and we will find someone else who is willing to play in your place. That will be easier than trying to reward your greediness.